SOUTH VIET NAM *In Struggle*

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Always forward !

editorial

revolution zeal unshaken by natural calamities and enemy actions

A week-long typhoon and flood in the five northern provinces of the Republic of South Viet Nam has caused the heaviest ever losses in life and property there. According to preliminary figures, over 300,000 people have been made homeless, tens of thousands of people died from drowning or were carried away by the current, 6,000 houses were destroyed and over 30 per cent of crops damaged.

These calamities in themselves were not the greatest in Viet Nam and in these regions over the last few years. But the serious damage was aggravated by the aftermaths of the barbarous war methods used by the enemy for many years in South Viet Nam.

EVERYBODY knows that since the "limited war" in South Viet Nam, the US imperialists have dumped a huge quantity of bombs and shells on the villages and hamlets, dykes and dams there, and poured tens of thousand of tons of toxic chemicals and napalm on immense areas of woody land and cropland. These ravages of an extermination character added to the devastating effect of the storm and floods in that narrow strip of hilly land. Worse still, over those last years, in implementation of their "accelerated pacification" and "special pacification" plans, the US and quislings have mounted terrorist raids and herded the population in concentration camps camouflaged as "strategic hamlets" and "new-life hamlets." There, curfews and other harsh security measures have turned the inhabitants into real prisoners and deprived them of all initiative and resources to combat natural calamities. The result was that 2,000 people in Thuong Duc and Kiem Lam and 4,000 others in Dong Duy Xuyen and Hoi An town were swept away by the waters.

Not only did the enemy not take any steps to prevent and combat these calamities, and to save the people in distress though they had at their disposal ample means of rescue, they even took advantage of the disaster to push up their "special pacification" plan. They made use of all means of transport available such as ships, boats, aircraft to conduct murderous raids against the stricken free zones and to impound civilians in so-called "refugees' camps" where they forcibly recruited youths for the army.

On November 2, though the typhoon and flood had not yet abated many "sweeps" were staged in the provinces of Quang Da, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa during which thousands of people and domestic animals were killed or wounded, tens of thousands of people herded in concentration camps, many

(Continued page 2)

DRVN Government Gives Relief to South Viet Nam Flood Victims

VICE-Premier Le Thanh Nghi on November 7 announced that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam had decided to present the victims of the recent big floods in the central provinces of South Viet Nam with 40,000 tons of rice, 4,000,000 metres of textile and 20 tons of medicaments.

Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi informed Mr Truong Cong Dong, Acting-Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN, of this decision of the DRVN Government and asked him to convey this relief to the South Vietnamese countrymen.

On behalf the Party, Government and people, Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi affectionately inquired about the conditions of the flood victims. He hailed the solidarity among the South Vietnamese people in the struggle against the sinister scheme of the US imperialists and their puppets to take advantage of the floods to further their "Vietnamization of the war" policy.

The Vice-Premier expressed his belief that with the deep concern of the SVNR PRG and with their tradition of self-support and self-reliance, solidarity and mutual assistance, the people in the central provinces of South Viet Nam will soon overcome the aftermath of the floods, normalize their life, keep high vigilance, and step up their fight against US aggression till complete victory. On behalf of the South Vietnam National Front, NFL and SVNR PRG, Mr Truong Cong Dong expressed the sincere thanks to the DRVN Government and North Vietnamese countrymen for their brotherly support and assistance.

SOUTH VIET NAM ARMY AND PEOPLE MUTUAL HELP IN CALAMITIES

THE South Viet Nam armed forces have been actively taking part in the rescue and relief of their stricken fellow-countrymen.

In the central part of Central Viet Nam, the scene of the calamities, the People's Revolutionary Committees in Quang Da, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces took urgent measures to help the victims rapidly normalize the life and resume the fighting.

The National Liberation Front Committees and administration in the said localities have mobilized public servants of various branches of activity, and members of mass organizations of provincial and district levels to go to the disaster areas to bring comfort to the people and help them cope with the aftermaths of the floods. In Tri Thien (Quang Tri, Thua Thien province) thanks to the enhanced spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance the local population succeeded in only a short period in removing the difficulties and the threat of famine. People in Hue city and various chief-towns and district capitals in these two provinces have been actively giving relief and mutual assistance to the peasants in the hit localities. Government officials of various levels and branches, and members of mass organizations and armed forces have saved more than 10 and a half tons of rice and collected a quantity of medicines as relief to the victims. At the same time, they have launched a "short-term vegetables and subsidiary crops growing drive" to stave off famine. In the flood-hit provinces, people in concentration camps put up a grim fight against the enemy for their return to their native places to grow emergency flood plants.

Students and pupils in cities have urged the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique to let them assume part of the relief work for the flood victims. Many puppet troops staged an action to get leave to come back to their villages and assist their stricken relatives.

People of ethnic minorities in the mountain areas have also organized money-collections and contributed a big quantity of manioc and potatoe for their fellow-citizens in the flooded delta region.

On November 6, the Representation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Committee of the NFL in the Central South Viet Nam sent 5 million *dongs* to the flood victims to help them tide over in time part of their difficulties, restore production, step up the fighting and foil all the vicious manoeuvres of the enemy.

Messages

From President Ton Duc Thang

"ON behalf of the Northern fellow-countrymen, I am conveying to all our kindred flood and storm victims the assurances of our deepest affection and sympathy and sending them some relief in the form of rice, cloth and medicines.

I am firmly confident that our fellow-countrymen will strengthen their solidarity, rapidly made good the ravages of the calamities and bring their daily life back to normal and that at the same time they will enhance their vigilance and push up their fight in order to bring their resistance to US aggression, for national salvation to complete victory."

From SVNR PRG President

"IN deep sympathy with them the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have instructed various levels of the Front and the Administration in Central Trung Bo to take urgent measures to help them rapidly do away with the consequences of the calamities and US-puppet crimes.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is confident that our fellow-countrymen will strengthen their solidarity, rapidly get over their difficulties and normalize their daily life ; at the same time, they will raise their watchfulness and frustrate all US-puppet wicked machinations.

With deep hatred for the US-puppet clique, let all our fellow-countrymen, cadres and fighters in South Viet Nam enhance their revolutionary spirit and step up their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, until complete victory."

From South Viet Nam NFL

"TO put a quick end to their ordeal, stabilize their daily life and start production going again, let our fellow-countrymen strengthen their solidarity and help one another in repairing their houses, planting short-term crops, and combating famine and diseases. Let all our fellow-countrymen in towns and countryside join their efforts in organizing relief, and facing the enemy scheme to harm the stricken people in order to compel them to organize relief too. Let the people's liberation armed forces uphold their 'fish and water tradition', valiantly fight, devotedly serve the people and inflict due punishment on the American and their lackeys who are utilizing on the people's difficulties to commit more crimes.

Let the cadres and employees in all branches at all levels further enhance their revolutionary zeal, dedicate all their strength and ability to the service of their fellow-countrymen, and fight with them until victory."

THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S SYMPHATHY SUPPORT

THE National Red-Cross Society of China announced on November 13 that the Chinese people will present the flood victims in northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam with a number of gifts worth 5 millions *yuan*.

REVOLUTION ZEAL...

(Continued from page 1)

houses and underground shelters destroyed or damaged. More cruel still, the enemy sprayed toxic chemicals over a large area north of Road No 16 in Quang Da province, and looted the grains of the victims.

DURING the inundation, the local liberation armed forces and revolutionary administration, and when it had receded, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the National Front for Liberation immediately organized rescue work. At an ad hoc meeting, the PRG delegation in Central Trung Bo took emergency measures to relieve the sufferings of the people. It also sent cadres to the hit areas to repair dwelling houses and help the population restore production, especially grow short-term crops to stave off famine which was threatening. On November 4, 1970 President Huynh Tan Phat of the PRG of the SVNR addressed to the flood victims a message of sympathy in which he announced that the PRG was sending them rice, cloth, medicines and money. He also called on the inhabitants, and officers and men of the liberation army units stationed in the stricken areas to organize relief parties in order to repair the damage caused by typhoon and flood and particularly to heighten their vigilance and be ready to foil all enemy manoeuvres under the "special pacification" program. Such a solicitude on the part of the PRG of the SVNR and the South Viet Nam NFL has alleviated somewhat the sufferings and difficulties of the affected people who received it with emotion and gratitude as a fresh proof that the revolutionary power really has the welfare of the people at heart.

President Ton Duc Thang of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has also sent to the flood victims the assurances of his heartfelt sympathy and announced the dispatch of 4 million metres of clothes, 40,000 tons of rice and 20 tons of medicines as relief. The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and many mass organizations in the North also sent messages to the people of the stricken areas and protested against the US and quislings turning to account natural calamities to carry out arrests, pillage and concentration of civilians.

This concern of the PRG, the South Viet Nam NFL and the DRVN Government clashed with the hypocrisy and ruthlessness of the US and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, bent on carrying through their "special pacification" program. Their war of extermination which consists in destroying everything with toxic chemicals, bombs and shells were instrumental in provoking floods in these regions. As a matter of fact, devastated by the war, forests and vegetation were unable to check the floods whose fury was let loose. We strongly condemn such heinous crimes of the US and quislings, and call on the world's peoples to score them for having utilized natural calamities to commit more crimes in South Viet Nam ; we also call on the world's peoples to take effective measures to stay these bloody hands and to mitigate the sufferings of the flood victims.

THE enemy scheme in this regard was very crafty indeed. But nothing, including natural calamities, can make our people flinch. The results of the three months' "special pacification" have sealed the doom of this program. We have destroyed many concentration camps and disposed of many wicked "pacification" agents ; we will certainly thwart all their dark designs.

Typhoons, floods and other calamities are impotent to get the enemy out of their present predicament, and to weaken the determination of our people. On the contrary, the hatred for the enemy and patriotism of our South Viet Nam people will gather into an irresistible whirlwind which will sweep the aggressors from South Viet Nam and peace and serenity will be certainly restored there.

SOUTH VIET NAM

PLAF COMMAND CITES 1970 DISTINGUISHED UNITS

THE Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces has decided to award Liberation Military Orders, Third Class, to the following units for achievements recorded between January and October, 1970:

— Detachment M. of PLAF main forces for its all-sided accomplishments in army building and fighting, including the murderous attack on the Third US Marine Brigade on Hill 935 area: 13 US companies badly mauled, 35 aircraft shot down and many warehouses and war material destroyed;

— Third Section of PLAF Infantry for its successes in annihilation battles: on Hill 935 area alone, it neatly wiped out or heavily battered 4 US companies, downed 7 aircraft and destroyed many war materials;

— Second Section of Detachment S. for its continuous and persevering activity: on Hill 935 area alone, it succeeded in holding ground and relentlessly repulsed dozens of enemy assaults, inflicting 250 GI casualties (including 1 US company completely knocked out) and grounding 7 aircraft;

— Section B. for its "each battle fought is a battle won" record. Since early this year, it has carried the day in dozens of actions and blotted out 3 battalion headquarters and 6 companies. In the siege of Hill 935 area, it set the stage for the 935 victory with a deep thrust into the enemy positions and the destructive punch, put out of action 1 US company at the very start of the battle;

— Anti-Aircraft Battalion X for its widespread highly fruitful activity. Since early this year it has brought down 102 aircraft of various types;

— Third Anti-Aircraft Company of Detachment M. for its timely and effective co-ordination with ground forces. It has been responsible for 58 US aircraft prapped with the smallest number of bullets and on Hill 935 area alone, for 30 aircraft grounded and many others damaged;

— Third Anti-Aircraft Company for its mobility in all terrains. It has shot down 44 aircraft, most of them right with the first rounds;

— Section A. of PLAF Infantry for its sustained fighting in the bordering area, pinning down 4 enemy battalions, effectively helping the people in the delta region to rise up simultaneously against the US-puppet "pacification" program. It has exacted a toll of some 1,200 enemy troops since early this year;

— Section H. of Detachement S. of PLAF Infantry for its stamina and promptitude and erasing of many enemy encampments. Its record was outstanding in the Coc Bai victory;

— Unit C. of PLAF Artillery for its dauntlessness and skilful combat tactics and technique. It was greatly instrumental in the Hill 935 victory;

— Battery One of Third Anti-Aircraft Company for shattering actions on enemy aircraft. It has shot down 17 US aircraft. In one 35-minute battle with 120 bullets it bagged 13 aircraft and damaged 11 others.

Many US planes lost in the last three months

IN the last three months, on various battlefields of South Viet Nam, the PLAF shot down or destroyed more than 300 US aircraft, inflicting heavy losses upon the US and puppet forces.

In the period under review, in scores of assaults and encirclements of the enemy positions in Hill 935, Cu Pung, Coc Bai and Da Ban areas, the PLAF in the Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue region downed or wrecked on the ground over 200 US aircraft. Guerillas and regional forces in Ca Mau province in September alone grounded 35 aircraft.

In the 23 successive days and nights ending July 23 the PLAF in the Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue area invested a base camp of the US 101st Paratroop Division on Hill 935, put out of action 1,700 enemy troops and shot down or destroyed on the ground 97 aircraft. Particularly, they brought down respectively on July 17, 20 and 22 6, 7 and 5 helicopters.

In the two months ending October 8, the liberation armed forces in this area also besieged a base camp of the 1st Regiment, puppet 1st Division, in Coc Bai area, taking a toll of more than 1,800 enemy troops and bringing down 71 planes. On August 10 alone, the liberation fighters downed 12 helicopters.

Also in Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue region, the PLAF besieged the Da Ban base for 40 days and nights ending September 15, killed 800 US and pupet troops and shot down 30 planes.

From August 28 to September 25, the liberation armed forces in Quang Tri province intercepted US aircraft on bombing missions along Highway 9, bringing down 26 planes. On September 25 alone, in their engagement against a battalion of the US 101st Paratroop Division in B'lao area, they grounded 11 aircraft.

In a counter-attack on enemy raiders in Thien Ngon area (Tay Ninh province) on September 10, the liberation fighters got 8 planes.

Together with the main force, the guerillas and regional forces also dealt heavy blows at US airforce.

In Ca Mau province, guerillas and regional forces in September brought down 35 aircraft. In Cai Nuoc district 10 aircraft were pranged by infantry weapons, in Phong Lac and Song Doc district 18 aircraft, in Duyen Hai and Ngoc Hien districts 5 and on the Long Khanh village, two.

Intercepting a raid on September 28 in the La Hai and Phu Tan areas, guerillas and regional forces in Phu Yen province shot down 6 planes, among them 5 helicopters.

On July 7, guerillas in Bao Loc district, Lam Dong province, brought down a helicopter carrying a US Major General, commander of the US 2nd Airborne Division and 6 other officers on board and eventually pranged 4 helicopters coming to search for their bodies.

Y. VILLAGE AGAINST PACIFICATION

ADJOINING Highway No 4 and the Binh Duc base, Y. village has been singled out as a "special pacification" area in My Tho province. The enemy threw into it two militia companies, an engineer company, two pacification brigades, dozens of bravados and many so-called "Phoenix" psywar and "open arm policy" units. In support of this sizeable force, they deployed a battalion of the 7th puppet Division, and a squadron of armoured personnel carriers operating in the outer perimeter. Sweeps were carried out almost everyday to plunder, round up and kill inhabitants, and every night hundreds of artillery shells were lobbed on Y.

Concurrently pacification agents went from house to house to draw up the lists of the members of each family and force people to call back absentee husbands, brothers and sons from the resistance ranks. Rewards were promised to those who would help arrest revolutionary cadres and guerrillas.

Those measures having proved futile, puppet authorities at Y. herded the population into a concentration area and set up a coercitive apparatus including five military posts, two police stations, 100 "civil guards" and dozens of "Phoenix" and "Swan" mercenaries. The latter were entrusted with the task of erasing the local revolutionary base and "winning the minds and hearts of the people"(!) The latter were however resolved to stick to their native land and foil the pacification scheme.

Incapable of bringing this to fruition, the enemy signalled in a squadron of armoured cars M. 113 and 8 bulldozers to level people's dwellings and orchards. Women of varying ages assaulted the vehicles upon their entrance into the village, and beat them back to Highway No 4. Simultaneously, hundreds of their fellow-countrymen marched to Vinh Kim where they snatched from the district chief the promise to leave alone their lands and houses and stop wantonly shell their village.

On the other hand, underground armed forces were built up and guerrilla activities spurred without let-up. Old men and women and children alike took part in digging communication-trenches, making spikes and finding unexploded bombs and shells with which to produce weapons or booby-traps. In a short time the guerrillas and people got 9,000 spikes, a dozen and three nests of well-trained hornets. Day and night, guerilla fighters kept a close watch on the enemy posts and struck fear into their occupants' hearts by chastising the most wicked of them.

Once, irrupting into hamlet B, adverse raiders stepped on mine-traps, spike-pits and were greeted by hornet swarms, which resulted in 7 casualties. Since then, the enemy made no more incursions. Aware of their dread, the inhabitants of Y. stiffened their determination to shatter the enemy repressive machinery. After discussions, over 1,500 among them 300 from the N. concentration camp, volunteered to hunt down wicked ruffians, "Phoenix," "Swan" and other agents of the coercive apparatus. Faced with people's offensive, members of the US-puppet established bodies surrendered to the revolutionary power.

From Vinh Kim the enemy sent a civil-guard company to Y. In numbers, members of the soldiers' families urged them not to comply with their superiors' orders. Thereupon the command of the My Tho sector sent in a multi-company of civil guards with air support. Thanks to their fighting hamlet defence-works, at several points guerillas intercepted the enemy who fell into mine-traps: all the command staff of the rescuing party was killed — a captain, four lieutenants and a second lieutenant. A number of their men surrendered, the rest fled to Highway No 4.

An anti-aircraft guerilla unit.

About 1,800 people in the concentration camp, helped by the liberation armed forces, broke the enemy grip and returned to their native place which they soon turned into a combat village.

Not reconciling themselves to their failure, some time later the US-puppets brought in a civil-guard company along with a fairly large number of wicked things to rebuild their military and political apparatus. Late in the afternoon every day reinforcements would come in five or six vehicles from Long Dinh and stayed for the night. Local guerillas were not slow to react: they intercepted a reinforcement convoy on Highway No 4, wiped out two lorries and 20 men on board. Since then no more reinforcement ever reached Y. By dint of patience and toughness, the guerillas, actively supported by the population, disbanded 355 enemy troops, punished 13 agents, destroyed 27 military cars, and forced the adversary to withdraw one post and two police stations.

Now, though a number of small garrisons still remain in the village, the people's revolutionary power is in effective control of five of the seven hamlets.

SAIGON under US-puppet Yoke

WORKERS' STRIKES

The Action Committee of the Saigon Federation of Trade Unions met on November 5 to discuss a plan for general sympathy-strike to back the RMK — BRJ workers' walk-out.

On November 12, about 500 workers of the South Korean "KKK" Laundry Works in Saigon began an indefinite strike for a wagelift from 30 to 50% to meet the rising cost of living.

STUDENTS' PROTEST

The Saigon puppet administration schemed to bring to court the students who had occupied the Cambodian Embassy in Saigon in protest against the Lon Nol massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia last May. Denouncing this move of Thieu, Doan Kinh, President of the "Committee to Defend Students Against Repression" said: "Thieu has promised not to try them. If he is not going to keep his promise, I shall cut a finger before the National Assembly and call on the students throughout the country to overthrow him."

"Thieu's eventual failure," Kinh added, "to live up to his words will bare his true colours and my cutting of a finger will direct the people's attention to them."

"EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE" FOUNDED

The spokesman of the "Committee for Academic Autonomy" of the science students in Saigon urged on November 8 the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique to let the students use the time for compulsory military training to help the victims of the recent floods in Central Viet Nam.

The President of the same Committee made known that science students had set up an "Emergency Rescue Committee" and were ready to join other students in the military training centres and help the flood-stricken areas' population.

MORE PAPERS CONFISCATED

The paper *Lap Truong* (Stand) had its November 10 issue seized for running an article denouncing US bombings and strafings as the root cause of the floods in many provinces in the central part of Central Viet Nam.

On November 11, the paper *Chinh Luan* (Political Opinion) was banned for reporting that Thieu was seeking to cope with the pressure on him to reach a solution..."

THIEU-KY INTERNAL STRIFE

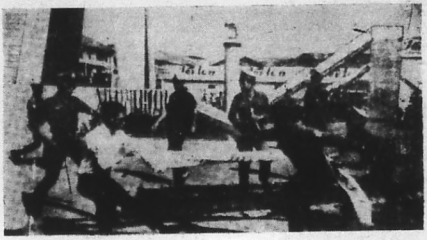
The paper *Dai Dan Toc* (Great Nation) has revealed the internal strife between Thieu and Ky, the two traitorous ring-leaders:

— Ky uncovered Thieu's intention to buy a ship worth one million dollars (for an unknown purpose).

— Thieu complained that Ky made quite a noise about South Viet Nam's military alliance with Thailand.

— Ky recalled the "forced alliance" imposed by the US on Thieu and him in the joint ticket at the 1967 presidential election and threatened to resign if Thieu continued to ignore him.

— "If Ky wants to quit," Thieu retorted, "it is his right."



Puppet police repressing Saigon students' demonstration.

Saigon press opinion

How can one trust a man like Mr Nixon?

Following are large excerpts from an article in the Saigon paper Dai Dan Toc, *October* 11, 1970.

"NO sooner had one heard a peace declaration, including a cease-fire, than the same day over the mobilization item of the TV program, university and middle-school students were urgently called to enlist. One also had to listen to the announcer reciting poems of sorts praising the so-called 'For the People' campaign intended to round up deserters from the army. 25,000, says the press, have already been apprehended. In Saigon, well-known faces have suddenly disappeared, though past draft age; as a matter of fact, they were guilty of 'disloyalty'. In the newspapers there are only stories of rapes, illegal arrests, swindling by CIA-directed members of *Phoenix* teams (1), those 'sons of God' who are free to arrest and kill anyone they like... Then news of more students brought before law court, of terror reigning in colleges, of the authorities' stubborn refusal to release other students whose unwarranted arrest was ordered by the supreme court, of searches and sackings of other colleges, of professors beaten up...

How can one trust a man like Mr Nixon? A reputed advocate of war, when Vice-President in 1954, he even suggested the use of the A-bomb to save the French colonialists in dire distress at Dien Bien Phu. And since assuming office he has never been really for peace. Whenever he speaks, he gets on the high horse with such rhetorical phrases as: 'the US is the strongest nation in the world', 'honour and pride of the Americans', 'defence of the free world', 'protection of American lives', 'living up to US commitments of honour'... to bomb Laos to ruins, to send troops to Cambodia even without the Lon Nol government's knowledge of the decision. Nonetheless, these warlike schemes have deceived nobody and met with strong protest from hundreds of American higher-education establishments. For the first time in their history, the American people have had enough with a war, this war.

The latest developments have supplied clear illustrations of this. Despite the noisy campaign of a group of American war advocates, the 'march for victory' promoted by the Reverend Mc Intyre — a mountain giving birth to a mouse — could muster only some thousand people, including a number who, brought in by the police, mixed with the demonstrators (to ensure order — *SVNS*) and swelled the latter's ranks to save the face of the US administration.

The Americans are fed up with blustering pronouncements by Vice-President Agnew and such assistants as Kissinger... People the world over are no longer taken in by big words like 'peace', 'justice', 'honour of the United States'.

At the Lusaka Conference, at the Conference on Religion in Japan, everywhere condemnations of American intervention and genocidal war in Viet Nam have been uttered.

Under fire from all sides, both at home and abroad where the critics do not mince matters, Mr Nixon was forced to back down by declaring readiness to negotiate a cease-fire while sticking to his guns and his offensive posture as though he were the victor, as though justice were on his side: all the troops, the 7th Fleet, tons of thousands of advisers and millions of tons of bombs and bullets should stand by to watch the people of Viet Nam likely become another Santo Domingo or Philippines with Ambassador Bunker as Indochina's governor-general for life."

"So long as foreigners and foreign bombs and shells and strong men installed by foreigners remain here," the paper concluded, "We, young people, must carry on the struggle."

Puppet war invalids demonstrating in Saigon.

(1) *Teams entrusted with intelligence gathering, assassination of revolutionary cadres, etc.*

SVN Youth in the "Five Volunteer" movement

IN the spring of 1965, in face of the US imperialist massive invasion of South Viet Nam and frenzied attack on North Viet Nam, the First Congress of Southern revolutionary people's youth set the following task: "To unite and organize all the youth forces, foster their patriotism, instil in them the hatred for the enemy, encourage them to keep up shoulder to shoulder with the people the common struggle against the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, liberate the South, defend the North, and achieve the reunification of the country.

To fulfil this glorious task, the Congress launched a "Five Volunteer" movement:

— Volunteer to wipe out many enemy forces,

— Volunteer to enlist and take part in guerilla warfare,

— Volunteer to carry out political struggle in town and countryside,

— Volunteer to serve the front and join Volunteer Youth for Liberation units, and

— Volunteer to do farming work in peasants' associations.

After five fruitful springs, the "Five Volunteer" movement has marked an important development within the revolutionary movement in South Viet Nam.

In combat, the "Five Volunteer" movement has enthused millions of youths of both sexes to enlist. Each youth in the armed forces has been trained how to handle rifles and explosive charges, attack fortifications and capture enemy weapons. In the liberated zone the youths set up "youth arms-factories," "plane-hunter groups," "tank-hunter groups," "boat-hunter groups" and "sniper teams" around US bases. In 1970, the youths in the armed forces broke records in downing helicopters, sinking boats and destroying military vehicles.

To fight the Yanks has become a daily pre-occupation and routine work of the young armymen. They enthusiastically carry out the "Five Volunteer" pledge to become "valiant combatants." In many villages of Quang Da and Long An provinces, all the youths male and female have joined the regional army, the militia and guerilla units. Many women-guerillas, women-gunners have struck panic into the enemy ranks along the Highway 4 crossing Long An and My Tho provinces.

Acting up to the "turn strategic hamlets into combat villages" motto the youths co-operated with the population in pulling down strategic hamlets and building villages into resistance bases for the revolution. Forests of spikes, mine-fields, underground communication trenches were built by the guerillas. Since the 1968 generalized offensives and uprisings, in particular, the guerilla movement has developed apace. Despite all the US-puppets' humbug about security in their areas, guerilla warfare has become a permanent threat right in their sanctuaries.

Together with the population, the youths in the Saigon-controlled areas have been stepping up actions for a living, for democratic rights, against pressganging, military training in schools, and secretly joining revolutionary armed forces. In these drives the youths have become shock forces. Women-youths in the "long-haired units" valiantly facing the enemy.

Along with combat duties, in the supplying of the front over the past five years, millions of both sexes have left their native places, fields and schools and seen service. Volunteer Youth units called after Doan Thi Lien, Le Thi Rieng, Nguyen Van Troi, Nguyen Van Be... have been present at the firing line. Many units and members of the Volunteer Youth day and night forded streams, crossed forests in defiance of enemy raids to carry food and ammunition to the front, catering for every need of the liberation army. Working with them are units of supply, logistic and liaison men. Many examples of self-denial have been commended at various congresses of army heroes, the major part of them consisting of youths.

In production, young volunteers have been also in the van. The youths in Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo have their anti-US troops and "Nguyen Van Troi crops" drives while the youths in the government offices have an "agricultural production and thrift movement."

Today, most of the territory and population of South Viet Nam have been liberated and revolutionary power established at all levels. In the building and defence of this power the youths have been acting as the core.

Tempered in the fire of the revolutionary struggle, the South Viet Nam youths are determined to redouble their efforts and contribute to the victory over the US aggressors so as to deserve being the "heroic generation of the heroic Vietnamese nation."

KHANH KIM

SOUTH VIET NAM'S LAND, PEOPLE AND HISTORY

U MINH STEEL RAMPART OF THE BRASS WALL

IN the late 1890s, many patriots led by Do Thua Luong and Do Thua Tu used the U Minh forest as a resistance base against the French colonialists for tens of years. During the preparation of the 1945 Insurrection and in the subsequent nine-year resistance against the French colonialists' attempted reconquest, it was a stronghold both of the Western Region and of the whole Nam Bo.

U Minh is divided by the Trem River in two parts: Upper U Minh on the left bank, 900 square kilometres wide, lying in An Bien district (Rach Gia province), and Lower U Minh on the right bank, 1,100 square kilometres wide, lying in Thoi Binh district (Ca Mau province).

SITUATED in a relatively high land, Upper U Minh is very fertile. Here, orchards are green all the year round with coconut, areca-nut, banana, tangerine, shaddock, sugarcane... trees. U Minh sugarcane contains a high proportion of saccharose.

Before the triumph of the 1945 August Revolution, it was a place to train cadres, make weapons and print propaganda literature. Together with the whole country, Upper U Minh resolutely fought the French colonialists. The enemy encircled the region, set up garrisons along the Cai Lon, Xeo Ro, Ba Dinh, Chac Bang... rivers in an attempt to wipe out the revolutionary forces. However, the resistance forces steadily grew.

Lower U Minh remained a sanctuary throughout the French aggression. Its products include scores of valuable species and various kinds of liana...

Lower U Minh is the Kingdom of cajuput. This tree grows in all kinds of earth and water: salt, brackish or fresh water, high, low or aluminous land. From a full-grown cajuput one can make a house-pillar, a set of table and chair or a pirogue capable of carrying one ton of goods... Its flowers can be used in the making of scent, in medicine or as food for bee. It is also used in the production of charcoal for industry.

Duoc trees can also make good pillars but chiefly charcoal. One kilogramme of *Duoc* charcoal yields 3,000 calories. This charcoal is widely used in Nam Bo. *Duoc* bark contains a high proportion of tan much in demand in medicine and pharmacy or in tanning industry.

Lower U Minh forest is peopled with wild boars, pangolins, weasels, deer, tortoises, boas, snakes and many kinds of birds... Wild boars predominate here. Birds live concentrated in sectors hundreds of hectares wide. Fish also abound: eels, catfish, perches, anabas... the latter giving a delicious food. The Trem river teems with lobsters (as big as the crayfish in the South China Sea) and other fish... From the river, at every two kilometres a canal branches out. A most fertile land, U Minh is covered with a layer of humus up to one metre thick which accounts for a yield of 13-25 tons of sweet potatoes or 30-45 tons of cassava per hertare.

The forest has also much guano and peat. During the Second World War, the Japanese imperialists fed this peat as fuel to their steam engines. One can find it in open cut deposits everywhere. The Japanese fascists also took guano home for their war industry.

Unlike in the Plain of Reeds where the horizon is everywhere clear, in U Minh forest the trees and the horizon merge with each other. Here the water is red but cool and wholesome.

In spite of this fertility, the people had to live a wretched life under French rule.

The August Revolution liberated U Minh. Once in the people's hands, the forest developed apace, catering for the various needs of the resistance.

On the cool rivers and straight canals as on the vast clearings, Luc Van Tien verses and folk songs resounded day and night. Here and there sugarcane fields rippled under the wind, sugar refineries mushroomed and the river was alive with boats. But soon after the restoration of peace, the Americans invaded South Viet Nam. Together with the whole South, U Minh stood up to resist a most cruel enemy. Inspired by their fathers' tradition the people have been clinging to their beloved land.

OVER the 16 past years, the aggressors have dumped tens of millions of tons of bombs, napalmed tens of thousands of hectares of forest, inflicting untold miseries upon the population. However, no cruelty can dampen the will of the U Minh people "to face death for their Fatherland to live." Their hatred like their patriotism is unconquerable.

During the nine-year resistance against the French colonialists U Minh was a base of Western Nam Bo, a logistic centre for the Nam Bo resistance. Today, it is fighting valiantly against the US imperialists and their lackeys, winning success after success.

Indomitable U Minh well deserves to be the steel rampart of the Brass Wall South Viet Nam, against US aggression.

TAM DUONG

The boy of the Coconut Land

BE'S family owns a vast coconut orchard. Before the August Revolution they had only a dozen trees, but the agrarian reform gave them more land on which Be's father planted more coconut trees — which run to over one hundred at present.

When a child, Be liked the orchard not only for its delicious fruit, but also its shade in summer in which Be and his brothers used to take cool naps. Moreover, it was so funny to gaze at the azure blue sky over the coconut tops in autumn from a swaying hammock!

At night, when sleep was slow to come, Be would think of the family gatherings under the trees.

"So you want to enlist in the army, don't you?" asked his father.

"Yes, I do," he replied.

Containing his emotion, his father glanced around and looked straight at him:

"Now sitting in 'Uncle Ho' orchard, I want to make it clear to you that your mother and myself are glad to let you go, but you must think twice before deciding. If you quit because it is too hard for you, don't show your face here again, mind you."

Be's baptism of fire was an attack against enemy naval vessels on the Nuoc Trong river (Can Tho province).

It was a big success to which he did his bit: three boats were sunk and two others damaged. Only then did Be write home.

The youth lived up to his promise to his parents and fellow-villagers by proving to be an intrepid scout throughout the past seven years. Once he captured an enemy sentry and extracted from him information which helped his unit neatly wipe out LN post held by over 300 US-puppets.

Be was also an enterprising group leader, expert in sniping at the enemy. One day, his group fought seven engagements with an adverse battalion and knocked out more than 40 men. All his mates were cited "valiant combatants" and himself a "valiant combatant first class."

Then Be was a company commander who was awarded the "Determined to Win Brass Wall" distinction. Within three months of an emulation drive to honour the 70th birth anniversary of Uncle Ho, his unit achieved three feats, liquidating nearly 400 US-puppets and earning three Liberation Exploit decorations from third to first class for the unit along with scores of other medals for his men and himself.

I met this brave Soc Trang youth when he had just been promoted a battalion staff officer. Returning from an engagement, he was already busy preparing for a fresh operation. So I could not talk much with him about the many scores of battles he had so courageously fought.

The one I know best was against BS hamlet for I covered it myself.

"I'll remember it for long!" he said to me after the tussle.

True, that was a hard fight who brought him glory.

It was a pitch-dark night. The Soc Trang youth and his mates had been assigned to destroy the enemy posts in the BS area and help the locals rise up and seize power. The mission was fulfilled. The next day, they beat off puppet commandos who were coming on a foray in BS hamlet.

Within a day, they repelled eight counter-attacks and were responsible for 130 adverse casualties.

In the midst of the third, due to close a bomb blast Be vomitted blood but remained at his CP to direct the charge against the enemy or to guide his men in dodging enemy fire.

During the sixth assault our machine-gun was hit and its server fell. 40 enemy troops rushed up.

Be waved his men forth. From seven years of combat experience, he anticipated that the puppet troops would stop after a few steps to wait for reinforcements. When they all huddled up, it would be the best moment to open up.

Moping his sweat with his headkerchief, he looked up and saw on some trees the slogan: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". and "Uncle Ho" 's name, which prodded him into seizing his B.40, jumping out of his defence work, fired at the enemy, waving his kerchief and shouted: "Long live Ho Chi Minh!"

His men immediately construed it as a "Forward!" signal, let their guns off, echoing: "Long live Ho Chi Minh!"

After that, they chased the surviving enemy, defying the planes overhead.

The enemy launched another attack. This time they tried to storm a few defence works and disrupt our battle-array. But our men let them approach in single file and suddenly swooped on them, Be himself killing about ten just a few metres in front of him.

Twilight was descending, and the battlefield was wrapped in smoke and dust. Be was exhausted, his nose still bleeding.

"The enemy is retreating," announced an observer. That means that they've called in aircraft and artillery," thought Be to himself.

As a matter of fact, enemy planes were heard roaring in and he was thrown into the air by an explosion. Then a coconut tree fell, obstructing the entrance of his shelter. This reminded him of his orchard and his native place now being laid waste by the same adversary.

Boiling with hatred, he rushed forward, followed by some mates, and occupied several brick houses in the centre of a banana orchard.

In front of them, an enemy captain carrying a stick with a brass-covered tip was coming with his men.

Be fired four B.40 shells at them and his comrades followed suit with their submachineguns. Quite a number of assailants dropped dead or wounded while few only managed to flee helter-skelter to their post.

Back to base, our fighters spoke at length of the battle and of Be's courage and cleverness. As for the latter, he had a happy dream that night. He saw himself leading his men to his village and celebrating their success together with the population in his orchard. Present at the merry-making party were his parents, his elder brother Hai, his younger brother Se who had also joined up and was now stationed near the hamlet, his sister Hong who had just been born a few months before he went up the line and now was playing at hide-and-seek with her friends behind the coconut trees.

Be's female friends who were in the district song and dance troupe also attended the gathering. They sang, danced and pelted him with questions.

"Very pretty, the girls of the coconut land!" mused Be.

CONGRESS OF VALIANT FIGHTERS AND ARMY HEROES IN TRI-THIEN-HUE

– Recently, the people's local administration in the *Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue area* held a congress of valiant fighters and army heroes to review the experiences and achievements recorded by the armed forces and people there.

Inaugurating the Congress, the Representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam warmly hailed the great achievements recorded by the armed forces and people in this area in their hard and fierce resistance against the enemy's brutal counter-attacks.

He pointed out: "During the last two years (from May 1968 to October 1970) the armed forces and people in the Quang Tri – Thua Thien – Hue area put out of action nearly 90,000 enemy including 46,000 GIs. Among the enemy losses were 9 regiment and battalion HQs, 6 battalions, 96 companies, 159 platoons completely wiped out, and 32 "pacification" teams and encampments of cruel agents decimated. They also shot down or destroyed on the ground 1,500 aircraft, sank 250 war ships, blew up 38 military trains, wrecked 200 military vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, smashed 400 artillery pieces and over 3,000 firearms.

Within a year from late 1969 to October 1970, the local population persuaded 3,540 puppet soldiers and "popular defence" members to cross over to the people's side.

Nearly 400 valiant fighters and army heroes, representatives of various units and localities that had recorded brilliant exploits in fighting as well as in production and other works attended the congress.

SVNR PRG FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BULGARIA

MME Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Head of the Delegation of the SVNR PRG at the Paris Conference on VN arrived in Sofia on Nov. 9 on an official visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

She was welcomed at the airport by Ivan Bashev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Mme Vera Natreva, Deputy-Head of the Commission for Political External Relations of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and many other high-ranking officials.

Present also were Huynh Phan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the SVNR and Luong Xuong, Ambassador of the DRVN in Bulgaria.

On Nov. 10 Mme Nguyen Thi Binh had a talk with Ivan Bashev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. On the same day, she visited the Mausoleum of Georgi Dimitrov and called on Boyan Balgaranov, Chairman of the National Council of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front, member of the Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

At a dinner in her honour, Foreign Minister Ivan Bashev said: "We highly value the unswerving policy of the NFL and SVNR PRG of seeking a peaceful and correct settlement of the Viet Nam problem. The reasonable and constructive initiative recently put forth by Mme Minister at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam has enjoyed the sympathy and support of the world's peoples. Loyal to their international obligation, our people will continue their support to the fighting Vietnamese people until their complete victory over the US aggressors and the restoration of genuine peace in Indochina."

In reply, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh expressed the sincere thanks of the South Vietnamese people, the NFL and SVNR PRG to the Bulgarian people and Government for their support and assistance.

• *In a recent interview with an AP correspondent in New York, Dr Benjamin Spock pointed out that the bloody war now going on in South Viet Nam had aroused ever greater discontent and indignation in the US and that the Nixon peace proposals on Viet Nam were but a trick to deceive American public opinion. However, the returns of the November 3 congressional elections proved that the Americans had not been taken in.*

• *Delegates of the team of victims denouncing the US war crimes in South Viet Nam on October 29 attended a big mass meeting against the US and puppet war crimes in South Viet Nam in Stavanger (Norway).*

NFL CONDEMNS DISPATCH OF SAIGON ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO CAMBODIA

THE South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee has issued a statement vehemently condemning the US and Saigon puppets for sending to Cambodia on October 26, some 6,000 additional Saigon troops, thus bringing the number of Saigon invading troops in Cambodia to 18,000.

With the support of US airforce and artillery, these troops attacked the areas of Svey Rieng and Kompong Cham province in Cambodia.

The statement strongly condemned the US for sending aircraft including B.52 for daily raids against the Khmer people and destructions of pagodas, historical relics and ancient cultural establishments in Cambodia.

US bombs and shells and the presence of 18,000 Saigon puppet troops in Cambodia can by no means help maintain and stabilize the rotten Phnom Penh puppet regime and check the ever growing struggle of the Khmer people for national salvation.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation vehemently condemning and warning the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppets for sending its troops to invade Cambodia. It demands that the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troops promptly withdraw from Cambodia. The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique have to bear responsibility for consequences arising from their acts.

Cambodia :

NEARLY 5,000 ADVERSE SOLDIERS KNOCKED OUT IN OCTOBER

IN October, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces put out of action about 5,000 adverse soldiers, writing off several battalions and companies, the *AKI* said.

Since October, the agency added, US air force has violently attacked the liberated zone and carried out many support raids for the Lon Nol troops. Tens of battalions have been hurled into "sweeps" and plundering operations against such important highways as Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 6... On October 24, 25 and 26, the Saigon puppet administration brought in a new contingent of over 6,000 men in the areas of Memot and Snoul. However, all these moves met with a fierce resistance from the patriotic forces and the people and suffered heavy losses.

On Highway 6 alone, the patriotic forces inflicted more than 2,000 enemy casualties. In coordinated actions, the regular, regional and guerilla forces sprang surprise attacks on enemy positions in the provincial capitals of Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Siem Reap, Takeo and at Prek Tameak, Sre Khlong, Roka Kong, Krasas, Krao.... several of which come under repeated assaults.

Laos :

7,000 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT IN 5 MONTHS

DURING the last five-month rainy season (June—October) the Lao patriotic forces put out of action over 7,000 enemy troops, seized or destroyed 4,500 various arms, 73 military vehicles, hundreds of tons of munition and other war material, downed or destroyed 73 aircraft, sank a score of naval craft, demolished about one hundred barracks and set afire tens of thousands of litres of fuel, *KPL* reported.

They wiped out or decimated a score of battalions, including one Thai outfit, completely knocked out many companies and sections. Vang Pao's "special forces" lost one third of their strength.

Moreover, thousands of puppet soldiers have gone over to the patriotic forces or deserted. In the areas still held by the adversary, the population foiled several "mopping-up" operations, and the US-puppet scheme to herd people and recruit soldiers, and stepped up their actions for peace.

International enquiry commission releases findings on US crimes in Indochina

THE International Inquiry Commission on US War Crimes in Indochina which held its first session in Stockholm from October 22 to 25, 1970 has made public the following findings:

In the eye of international law:

1) Mass aerial bombardments continue to be one of the gravest of all war crimes being committed by the US armed forces on the territory of Indochina: For several years, the American air force has been spreading death and destruction over the cities and villages of Indochina, in defiance of the fourth Hague Convention of 1907 on the laws and usages of war (Article 25), the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilian populations in times of war (Article 3) and the charter of the international military tribunal (Article 6, Point b), which not only forbids such bombardments but declares them to be war crimes.

2) We have carefully examined evidence of the widespread use of chemical weapons by the American armed forces in South Viet Nam. We had at our disposal many documents disclosing the terrifying scale of the chemical war which is being waged by the United States and its allies against the Vietnamese people. In this connection, we heard the testimonies of eye witnesses, studied material evidence. We state that by these acts the United States has violated the universally accepted norms of international law, prohibiting the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

3) The Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of the civilian population in times of war provides in Article 27 that civilians in occupied territories have the right to demand, under all circumstances, respect of their personal dignity, family status, religious beliefs, traditions, habits and customs. They must always be treated humanely and, above all, must be protected against all acts of violence and intimidation.

We have heard testimonies of witnesses, both Vietnamese and Americans from Viet Nam, revealing facts of unbridled terror, i.e. "search and destroy" operations, house searches, mass murders, deportations, arrests and other forms of arbitrary rule.

4) In accordance with the generally adopted principles of international law, particularly the Convention of 1948 on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, we can conclude that the nature and scale of the crimes being committed by the American and allied forces in Indochina over a long period constitutes genocide, which is an international crime.

The Commission devoted particular attention to the following facts:

1) From the point of view of aggression:

— The so-called Vietnamization of the war.

— The spreading of the war to the whole of Indochina.

As a matter of fact, we are faced by a consistent policy, which no longer aims merely at getting Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese, but, in a general way, Asians to kill Asians. The Commission denounces this new policy as one of the most outrageous forms of aggressive war, because it aims at finding among the attacked nations, among the very victims of aggression, accomplices to support it.

2) From the point of view of the massacres of the civilian population:

The Commission has gained the certitude, on the basis of the facts and evidence brought to its knowledge, that massacres like the Son My one are not isolated cases but a common method, for which those who sanction it, train and instruct the forces involved, are responsible.

3) From the point of view of the use of certain weapons:

The commission has received very detailed information on the latest improvements of the so-called fragmentation bombs, particularly dart bombs. These are anti-personnel devices without military necessity, designed to cause death and suffering to the civilian population.

4) From the point of view of labour camps and prisons:

Testimonies and documents of Vietnamese prisoners from "tiger cages" from Poulo Condor (Con Son) and numerous other prisons show that they are not victims of excesses committed by individual criminals.

On the contrary, we consider that this entire revolting phenomenon is a method of waging war, a system of state-organized crimes.

The crimes which we denounce are of such a vicious and premeditated character and have such terrible consequences that world public opinion must not tolerate them, since their continuation threatens the existence of entire peoples.

We have denounced these crimes and submitted the evidence to the peoples of the world.

CONDOLENCES OVER GENERAL DE GAULLE'S PASSING

PRESIDENT Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, of the Advisory Council of the Revolutionary Provisional Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and President Huynh Tan Phat of the SVNR PRG on November 11 sent a message of condolences over De Gaulle's decease to Mr Georges Pompidou, President of the French Republic and Mr Chaban Delmas, President of Cabinet.

Our leaders paid homage to the great patriot who frankly criticized the aggresive war of the US in South Viet Nam and conveyed the deep condolences to the former French President's family.

in brief * in brief * in brief * in brief

● The "Viet Nam Committee" of the German Democratic Republic announced that since early this year, the people in the GDR had collected 34 million *marks* for Viet Nam. The German mass organizations will further step up their activity to support the Vietnamese people in their fight against the US aggressors during the "Month for Solidarity Against Imperialists" to be held in the GDR next December.

● American troops stationed in Japan have recently set up another anti-war organization called "Alliance of US Servicemen." At two US military bases in Yokosuka and Itazuka, two newspapers have just been put out by American troops against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

● The Finns ended on November 1st the "Week of Support for the 8-Point Proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam" with a big meeting and demonstration in Helsinki. Though it was freezing, more than 1,500 people walked for an hour and half on a road section 5 km long and streamed to the US Embassy. The marchers burnt a US flag and shouted slogans against US aggression in Indochina.

● 31 political parties and organizations in Denmark on October 31 staged a big meeting in Copenhagen with more than 10,000 participants for the total and unconditional withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

● On the same day, many demonstrations against US aggression in Indochina broke out in Ottawa and Toronto (Canada). Despite heavy rain, thousands of people marched through the streets, displaying streamers reading: "Immediate US Withdrawal from Viet Nam," "End Canada's Complicity with US Aggression."

● The "International Week of Protest Against the US War in Indo-China" was observed from October 26 to November 5, 1970 in many localities of Holland with varied actions such as: marches, meetings, exhibitions, film shows, selling of books for the benefit of the Vietnamese...

● Results of a referendum on the Nixon administration's Viet Nam policies on the occasion of the "November 3" in San Francisco, California and Massachusetts showed that the majority of voters wanted Nixon to put an immediate end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam, withdraw all American troops from South Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs by themselves.

in brief * in brief * in brief * in brief

Nixon's Failure in US Off-Year Election

THE November 13 mid-term election in the US has ended in bitter failure for Nixon and his Republican Party.

According to *UPI* on November 4, "The world press generally agreed today that Republicans failed to achieve their goals in the US elections." Instead of capturing the majority in both houses, the Republicans lost 9 seats in the House of Representatives where they had been in minority so far, and their state governorships dropped from 32 to 20, losing the majority it had held for the past 10 years.

However, Nixon told pressmen in San Clemente he had won a "working majority" in both houses, he was "very pleased" and he only feared that foreign countries did not see the implication of these results.

But the US president just made a laughing stock of himself. The Hongkong paper *Ta Kung Pao* said on November 5 that Nixon only succeeded in making a fool himself.

The setback of Nixon and his Republican Party was evident. The only things worthy of note in these recent elections are:

WORDS AND DEEDS

Once more Nixon's deeds did not match his words.

Early this year, he declared that the best course in an electoral campaign for a president was to stay and work in the White House to become a good president. He also called on politicians to lower their voices and speak less so as not to worsen the internal split.

But after calling into action the "Republican heavy gun"—Vice-President Spiro Agnew—Nixon went campaigning in all parts of the country. Three weeks before election day, Nixon himself barnstormed 22 states. In one day, he toured 4 states. In Florida he delivered 4 speeches in two days. In California, Nixon mustered Agnew and his followers and even his wife and his daughter to raise quite a ballyhoo about what he called "law-and-order" programme.

He also claimed that "the time has come to take the gloves off and speak to this kind of behaviour in a forthright way"; he lashed out at crime, marijuana, pornography..., and lashed his Party's opponents for this state of things. Nixon and his followers even engineered provocations and disturbances during the electoral campaign to substantiate his charges and mislead public opinion.

Truly, with his deeds, President Nixon showed every one what a "good president" he was. This has helped people understand better the "5-point peace proposal" in his October 10 speech, his "Mid-East peace plan" or his "lasting peace throughout the world."

A BAD MEMORY

It was not that Nixon failed to see why such predecessors of his as Woodrow Wilson and Andrew Jackson had not indiscreetly misused the US president's prestige to foment division in the country as he did in the recent elections. It was not that Nixon was not aware of F.D. Roosevelt's failure in a similar undertaking 32 years ago.

What was then the motivation of his action? There are many answers. It was because Nixon wanted a "big win" as remarked a *BBC* correspondent who covered the whole recent US electoral campaign, a quite well-founded comment for Nixon is a man craving for power. It was because he believed in "lucky numbers" since he is a great card sharper as revealed by US magazine *Life* and some other papers.

But the most likely explanation is that Nixon has a bad memory and forgets very quickly what he has said. That is why he constantly miscalculates. He has forgotten his promise to the American voters only two years ago to "end the war in Viet Nam," which pledge helped him into the White House. But after settling down in the presidential seat, he has sought to prolong the war in Viet Nam by means of "Vietnamization." Worse still, he has extended the aggressive war to Cambodia and unceasingly boasted about the imaginary successes of his aggressive policy. In the mid-term election, Nixon also forgot he had lost to John Kennedy in 1960, he had failed in the senatorial election in 1962, and again he was out of his calculations.

The victory Nixon's opponents won by exploiting such electoral issues as inflation, unemployment, high cost of living..., the protest demonstrations against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and for the withdrawal of US troops by Americans in San Jose and some other localities when Nixon came campaigning there clearly showed that his "5-point peace proposal" smokescreen and his outbursts about law and order, and slanders against his opponent to win over the "silent majority" were of no avail. These facts clearly spelled out that the American man of the streets is still lucid and not so gullible and the "silent majority" is only a figment of Mr Nixon's imagination.

No doubt the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indo-China — the source of inflation, unemployment and other troubles in the US — still remains the foremost problem in the US political life at present.

It is the cause of Nixon's and his Republican Party's failure in the US off-year elections.

Anyhow, the results of the polling have been a real disaster for him. And the US presidency in 1972 still is an attractive target. *Reuter* reported on November 7 that he had hurriedly convened a meeting with his followers to review the recent setback of his Party and discuss schemes for the next White House race.

IF the lesson of experience had sunk in, President Nixon should change his policy. If he obdurately drags on the aggressive war in the Indo-Chinese countries and continues trying to deceive or deliberately turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the feeling of the people under his authority he will only court fresh failures, each more humiliating than the one before.

DAI LIEN

Nixon's so-called "Asian policy"

SOUTH VIET NAM

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